

Date:

To: Wisconsin Clinical Laboratories  
Health Officers  
Tribal Health Centers  
Infection Control Professionals

RE: Submission of Laboratory Specimens

To assure a timely diagnosis of infectious and biological agents of high public health importance specimens must be collected, labeled and transported to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) on a priority basis, within 24 hours of collection. Agents of high public health importance include:

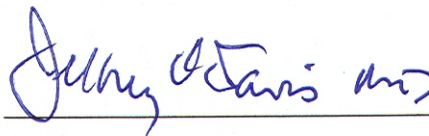
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- avian influenza,
- any agent associated with a bioterrorism threat, and
- agents that may be designated in the future by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH)

Testing for these agents at the WSLH is subject to prior approval by the DPH by calling 608-267-7321 during business hours or 608-258-0099 after business hours. Once approval is received from the DPH it is the responsibility of each laboratory to assure the specimen arrives at the WSLH within 24 hours. If this cannot be done, laboratories should call the WSLH emergency number at 608-263-3280 for assistance in prompt delivery of the specimens. Arrangements can be made directly with the WSLH for confirmation testing of isolates suspected to be bioterrorism agents.

For information on laboratory specimen collection, delivery and testing for these agents of high public health importance, call the WSLH emergency number at 608-263-3280. For information on prior approval for testing call Thomas Haupt, Wisconsin Division of Public Health at 608-266-5326.



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